

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/702,176

Examiner

Kevin Quarterman

Applicant(s)

LYKOWSKI ET AL.

Art Unit

2879

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 18 October 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-30.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment and remarks received 18 October 2005 have been entered.

Election/Restrictions

2. Claims 1-10 are directed to an allowable product. Pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Official Gazette notice dated March 26, 1996 (1184 O.G. 86), claims 17-20, directed to the process of making or using the patentable product, previously withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction requirement, are now subject to being rejoined. Claims 17-20 are hereby rejoined and fully examined for patentability under 37 CFR 1.104.
3. Since all claims previously withdrawn from consideration under 37 CFR 1.142 have been rejoined, the restriction requirement made in the Office action mailed on 18 July 2005 is hereby withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-30 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant's arguments that the applied references do not teach the claimed interlock feature are persuasive.
6. Thus, regarding independent claim 1, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests an electrode assembly for use in an ignition device comprising, in addition to

other limitations of the claim, a precious metal insert having a mechanical interlock feature and a sparking surface, wherein the mechanical interlock feature is located at least partially within a blind hole with a lower axial end engaging the interlocked feature such that an inner surface of the blind hole circumferentially contacts an outer surface of the mechanical interlock feature. Due to their dependency upon independent claim 1, claims 2-10 are also allowable.

7. Regarding independent claim 11, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests an electrode assembly for use in an ignition device comprising, in addition to other limitations of the claim, a vent hole extending from an interior location of a blind hole to a location exterior of the assembly. Due to their dependency upon independent claim 11, claims 12-13 are also allowable.

8. Regarding independent claim 14, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests an ignition device for use in an internal combustion engine comprising, in addition to other limitations of the claim, a precious metal insert having a mechanical interlock feature and a sparking surface, wherein the mechanical interlock feature is at least partially located within a blind hole with a lower axial end engaging the interlock feature such that an inner surface of the blind hole circumferentially contacts an outer surface of the interlock feature, and wherein the lower axial end is joined to the precious metal insert. Due to their dependency upon independent claim 14, claims 15-16 are also allowable.

9. Regarding independent claim 17, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a method of manufacturing the electrode assembly cited in independent claim

Art Unit: 2879

1. Due to their dependency upon independent claim 17, claims 18-20 are also allowable.

10. Regarding independent claim 21, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests an electrode assembly for use in an ignition device comprising, in addition to other limitations of the claim, a precious metal insert having a mechanical interlock feature and a sparking surface; a mechanical attachment formed from a lower axial end of an elongated center electrode engaging the mechanical interlock feature; and a peripheral weld joining the center electrode and the precious metal insert and having at least one interruption permitting gases to escape from the blind hole. Due to their dependency upon independent claim 21, claims 22-30 are also allowable.

11. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Quarterman whose telephone number is (571) 272-2461. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH (7-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimesh Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kevin Quarterman
Examiner
Art Unit 2879

kq 
22 November 2005


Joseph Williams
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2879